1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 LISA MARIE HICKEY, Civil No. 07cv0228-BEN (BLM) 12 Petitioner, REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR 13 ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR v. WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS 14 DAWN S. DAVISON, Warden, 15 Respondent.

This Report and Recommendation is submitted to United States District Judge Roger T. Benitez pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rules 72.1(d) and HC.2 of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

On November 13, 2006<sup>1</sup>, Petitioner Lisa Marie Hickey, a state prisoner appearing *pro se*, commenced these habeas corpus proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Doc. No. 1. Petitioner challenges her conviction for manufacturing methamphetamine. <u>Id.</u>

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Petitioner originally filed her Petition in the Central District of California. That court transferred the case to this District on February 2, 2007. Doc. No. 1 (finding Southern District to be the more convenient forum).  $-1- \qquad \qquad 07\text{cv}0228\text{-BEN (BLM)}$ 

This Court has considered the Petition ("Pet."), Respondents' Answer, and all supporting documents submitted by the parties. For the reasons set forth below, this Court RECOMMENDS that Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus be DENIED.

#### FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

#### A. Petitioner's Conviction and Sentence

The following facts are taken from the California Court of Appeal's opinion on direct review in <a href="People v. Hickey">People v. Hickey</a>, No. D046432, slip op. (Cal. Ct. App. April 20, 2006). <a href="See">See</a> Lodgment 5. This Court presumes the state court's factual determinations to be correct absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. 28 U.S.C. <a href="U.S.C.">§ 2254(e)(1); Miller-El v. Cockrell</a>, 537 U.S. 322, 340 (2003); <a href="See">See</a> also <a href="Parke v. Raley">Parke v. Raley</a>, 506 U.S. 20, 35-36 (1992) (holding findings of historical fact, including inferences properly drawn from such facts, are entitled to statutory presumption of correctness).

Special agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) executed a search warrant of a storage unit Hickey rented. The agents found equipment commonly to manufacture methamphetamine, including glassware, coffee grinders, coffee filters, a funnel, a mason jar with rubber tubing, an electric hot plate, two scales, and rubber gloves. The agents later determined that methamphetamine residue was present on much of the equipment. In addition, the coffee grinders contained residue from pseudoephedrine, a chemical precursor to methamphetamine. Agents found a bottle that contained 4.8 grams of pseudoephedrine in liquid solution, and a container of phosphorous acid—a chemical commonly used in the process of converting pseudoephedrine into methamphetamine. The storage unit also contained a cloth bag that had chemical burns consistent with the presence of red phosphorous, another chemical commonly used in the converting pseudoephedrine process of methamphetamine.

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DEA Agent Andrew Jauch arrested Hickey. After her arrest, Hickey admitted to Agent Jauch that the materials found in the storage unit belonged to her. Hickey told Agent Jauch that she had purchased most of the items from a man named Terry H.. (sic) Hickey also told Agent Jauch that she intended to sell or trade the items to a second person named Fred B., who was looking to purchase items to use in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Hickey also admitted to Agent Jauch that she had "washed some dope" for Fred B.

In March 2005, the People charged Hickey in an amended information with manufacturing methamphetamine 11379.6, subd. (a), count 1), possessing pseudoephedrine intent to manufacture with the methamphetamine (§ 11383, subd. (c)(1), count 2), and possessing a firearm as a felon (Pen. Code, § 12021, subd. (a)(1), count 3). As to counts 1 and 2, the People alleged that Hickey had previously been convicted of manufacturing methamphetamine (§ 11370.2, In addition, the People alleged that Hickey had suffered four prior felony convictions (Pen. Code, § 1203, subd. (e)(4)) and two prison prior convictions (Pen. Code, §§ 667.5, subd. (b), 668).

In March 2005, in the first phase of a bifurcated trial, a jury found Hickey guilty of the charged offenses. In the second phase of the trial, Hickey admitted the prior conviction allegations. The trial court sentenced Hickey to a total prison term of 10 years eight months.

Lodgment 5.

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#### B. <u>Direct Appeal</u>

Petitioner appealed to the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One. Lodgment 2. In an unpublished opinion filed on April 20, 2006, the California Court of Appeal affirmed the conviction. Lodgment 1. Petitioner then filed a petition for review in the California Supreme Court (Lodgment 6), which was summarily denied without citation of authority on July 19,

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Agent Jauch defined the phrase, "washing dope," as follows: "at a point in manufacturing methamphetamine, near the end ... it sometimes has a dirty appearance, and manufacturers like to wash it with a solvent like acetone in order to give it a shinier, clearer, cleaner appearance."

2006 (Lodgment 7).

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#### C. Collateral Review

Petitioner did not seek collateral review of her conviction in the state courts.

On November 13, 2006, Petitioner filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Doc. No. 1. Respondent timely filed an Answer on April 4, 2007. Doc. No. 7. Petitioner did not file a traverse by the May 9, 2007 deadline or timely request additional time to do so and the Court took the matter under submission.

## STANDARD OF REVIEW

Title 28 of the United States Code, section 2254(a), sets forth the following scope of review for federal habeas corpus claims:

> The Supreme Court, a Justice thereof, a circuit judge, or a district court shall entertain an application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.

28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

The Petition was filed after enactment of the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"), Pub. L. No. 104-132, 110 Stat. 1214. Under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d), as amended by AEDPA:

> (d) An application for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court shall not be granted with respect to any claim that was adjudicated on the merits in proceedings court unless adjudication of the claim-

- (1) resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or
- (2) resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court proceeding.

28 U.S.C. § 2254(d). Summary denials do constitute adjudications on the merits. See Luna v. Cambra, 306 F.3d 954, 960 (9th Cir. 2002). Where there is no reasoned decision from the state's highest court, the Court "looks through" to the underlying appellate court decision. Ylst v. Nunnemaker, 501 U.S. 797, 801-06 (1991).

A state court's decision is "contrary to" clearly established federal law if the state court: (1) "arrives at a conclusion opposite to that reached" by the Supreme Court on a question of law; or (2) "confronts facts that are materially indistinguishable from a relevant Supreme Court precedent and arrives at a result opposite to [the Supreme Court's]." Williams v. Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 405 (2000).

A state court's decision is an "unreasonable application" of clearly established federal law where the state court "identifies the correct governing legal principle from this Court's decisions but unreasonably applies that principle to the facts of the prisoner's case." Lockyer v. Andrade, 538 U.S. 63, 75-76 (2003). "[A] federal habeas court may not issue a writ simply because the court concludes in its independent judgment that the relevant state-court decision applied clearly established federal law erroneously or incorrectly . . . . Rather, that application must be objectively unreasonable."

Andrade, 538 U.S. at 75-76 (emphasis added)

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(internal quotation marks and citations omitted). Clearly established federal law "refers to the holdings, as opposed to the dicta, of [the United States Supreme] Court's decisions." Williams, 529 U.S. at 412.

Finally, habeas relief is also available if the state court's adjudication of a claim "resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in state court." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(2). A state court's decision will not be overturned on factual grounds unless this Court finds that the state court's factual determinations were objectively unreasonable in light of the evidence presented in the state court proceeding. See Miller-El, 537 U.S. at 340. This Court will presume that the state court's factual findings are correct, and Petitioner may overcome that presumption only by clear and convincing evidence. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(1).

#### **DISCUSSION**

Petitioner presents two grounds for habeas relief. In ground one, Petitioner contends that the trial court violated her federal due process rights by incorrectly instructing the jury on the elements of manufacturing methamphetamine. Pet. at 5. In ground two, Petitioner argues that the trial court violated her federal due process rights by failing to give sua sponte a lesser-included offense instruction. Id. More precisely, Petitioner contends that California Health and Safety Code § 11379.6(c), which prohibits offering to manufacture methamphetamine, is a lesser-included offense of manufacturing methamphetamine (§ 11379.6(a)). Id.

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Respondent counters that the Petition should be denied because the claims are questions of state law, which this Court cannot address on federal habeas review. Resp't Mem. P. & A. Supp. Answer ("Resp't Mem.") at 8-16. Alternatively, Respondent argues that Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that the state court's decision rejecting her claims on the merits was objectively unreasonable. Id. (citing 28 U.S.C.§ 2254(d)). Respondent does not dispute that Petitioner raised her claims for relief in a petition for review before the California Supreme Court and that these claims, therefore, are exhausted. See Johnson v. Zenon, 88 F.3d 828, 829 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing Anderson v. Harless, 459 U.S. 4, 6 (1982) and Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270, 275 (1971)) (for exhaustion purposes, Petitioner must have "fairly presented" her federal claim to the highest state court with jurisdiction to consider it).

# A. <u>Jury Instruction Regarding Manufacturing Methamphetamine</u>

Petitioner contends that the trial court violated her due process rights by incorrectly instructing the jury on the elements of manufacturing methamphetamine under § 11379.6(a). Pet. at 5. Specifically, Petitioner argued in the state courts<sup>3</sup> that §11379.6(a) should not "be interpreted to encompass the initial and intermediate steps in the manufacturing process, but only the actual act of manufacturing." Lodgment 2 at 12; Lodgment 6 at 31. In instructing the jury, the trial court utilized California Jury

In her federal habeas petition, Petitioner asserted two very short, vague and conclusory grounds for relief. Pet. at 5. Because Petitioner did not provide any support or explanation for the alleged due process violations, this Court looked to her state court pleadings for elucidation on her claims and allegations.

Instruction - Criminal 12.09.1, as follows:

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Every person who manufactures or offers to manufacture methamphetamine, a controlled substance, either directly or indirectly by chemical extraction or independently by means of chemical synthesis is guilty of a violation of Health and Safety Code 11379.6, subdivision (a), a crime.

The crime of manufacturing a controlled substance and the term "manufacture" as used in this instruction, does not require proof or mean that the process of manufacturing be completed. Rather, the committed when crime is а person knowingly participates in the initial or intermediate steps to carry out (sic) to process a controlled substance. Thus, it is unlawful for a person to engage in the synthesis, processing, or preparation of a chemical used in the manufacture of a controlled substance, even if the chemical itself is not or is not (sic) itself a controlled substance, provided the person knows that the chemical is to be used in the manufacturing of a controlled substance.

In order to prove this crime, each of the following elements must be proved:

- 1. A person manufactured or offered to manufacture either directly or indirectly, by means of chemical extraction, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, a controlled substance, namely methamphetamine; and
- 2. That person knew that the substance to be manufactured had the character of a controlled substance.

Lodgment 8 at 460-61; see also Lodgment 1 at 50 (CALJIC 12.09.1).

In evaluating the merits of Petitioner's claim, this Court must look through to the last reasoned state court decision. <u>See Ylst</u>, 501 U.S. at 801-06. Here, because the California Supreme Court summarily denied Petitioner's petition (Lodgment 7), the last reasoned state court decision came from the California Court of Appeal. Lodgment 5.

The Court of Appeal rejected Petitioner's claim on the following grounds:

1 III. 2 DISCUSSION 3 11379.6, subdivision (a) prohibits Α. Section participation in any stage of the process of 4 manufacturing methamphetamine 5 Hickey claims there is insufficient evidence that she manufactured methamphetamine pursuant to section 11379.6, subdivision (a) because that statute does not 6 prohibit the initial or intermediate steps necessary 7 to manufacture methamphetamine. "The interpretation of a statute's meaning is a question of law that is 8 reviewed de novo." (People v. Germany (2005) 133 Cal.App.4th 784, 789.) 9 Section 11379.6 provides in relevant part: 10 "(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, 11 every person who manufactures, compounds, converts, produces, derives, processes, or 12 prepares, either directly or indirectly by chemical extraction or independently by 13 means of chemical synthesis, any controlled substance specified in Section 14 11055, 11056, 11057, or 11058 shall be punished by imprisonment in the 15 prison for three, five, or seven years and by a fine not exceeding fifty thousand 16 dollars (\$50,000). (sic)  $[\P]...[\P]$ 17 18 "(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, every person who offers to perform an act 19 which is punishable under subdivision (a) shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for three, four, or five 20 years."4 21 In People v. Lancellotti (1993) 19 Cal.App.4th 22 809, 813 (Lancellotti), the court held that section 11379.6, subdivision (a) criminalizes participation in 23 initial and intermediate stages methamphetamine manufacturing process. The defendant 24 in Lancellotti stored chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine at a commercial storage facility. 25 (Lancellotti, supra, 19 Cal.App.4th at p. 812.) storage unit also contained most of the equipment 26 needed to manufacture methamphetamine. (Ibid.) appeal from his conviction for manufacturing 27 Methamphetamine is one of the controlled substances identified in 28

section 11055. (§ 11055, subd. (d)(2).) 07cv0228-BEN (BLM)

methamphetamine (§ 11379.6, subd. (a)), the defendant claimed the evidence was insufficient to support his conviction because the storage unit lacked a certain piece of equipment and a reducing agent that were necessary to complete the methamphetamine manufacturing process. (Lancellotti, supra, 29 Cal.App.4th at p. 811.)

The *Lancellotti* court rejected this argument, stating:

"The evidence in this case clearly establishes that appellant was in the middle of the manufacturing process for methamphetamine, because '... the conduct proscribed by section 11379.6 encompasses the initial and intermediate steps carried out to manufacture, produce or process [a controlled substance].' [Citation.] (sic)

### $[\P]...[\P]$

"The cumulative nature of the evidence in appellant's case, including the contents of the locker which all taken together are used in manufacture of the presence of amphetamine, chloropseudoephedrine, a substance which cannot be purchased and is used only in the manufacture of methamphetamine, and the odor emanating from the locker, provide substantial evidence that the manufacture of methamphetamine, an incremental and not instantaneous process, was in progress." (Lancellotti, supra, 19 Cal.App.4th at p. 813.)

In People v. Coira (1999) 21 Cal. 4th 868 (Coira), Supreme Court cited Lancellotti for the proposition that, "The conduct proscribed by section [11379.6, subd. (a)] encompasses the initial and intermediate steps carried out to process a controlled substance." (Coira, supra, 21 Cal.4th at p. 874.) The Coira court explained, "[T]he statute makes it unlawful to engage in the chemical synthesis of a substance as one part of the process of manufacturing a controlled substance." (Ibid.) Numerous other courts have reached the (See, e.g., People v. Heath (1998) 66 conclusion. Cal.App.4th 697, 705 [section 11379.6, subdivision (a) "criminalize[s] all acts which are part of the [methamphetamine] manufacturing process"].)

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We conclude that section 11379.6, subdivision (a) criminalizes participation in any stage of the methamphetamine manufacturing process, and that there is substantial evidence to support the jury's finding that Hickey manufactured methamphetamine pursuant to that section.

B. The trial court properly instructed the jury regarding the offense of manufacturing methamphetamine

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Incorporating the arguments from her brief that we rejected in part III.A., ante, Hickey claims this instruction was "overly broad" because it defined the crime of manufacturing methamphetamine to include the preliminary steps necessary to accomplish this task. For the same reasons we concluded in part III.A., ante, that the crime of manufacturing methamphetamine includes any stage of the manufacturing process, we conclude that the trial court properly instructed the regarding the offense of jury manufacturing methamphetamine.

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Lodgment 5 at 4-9.

To the extent Petitioner's claim contains an underlying challenge of the Court of Appeal's conclusion that § 11379.6(a) encompasses initial and intermediate steps of manufacturing, Respondent argues that Petitioner is not entitled to relief on ground one because the claim challenges the state court's determination of a state law issue and, therefore, is not cognizable on federal habeas review. Resp't Mem. at 8. Respondent is correct that federal habeas corpus relief is not available to correct alleged errors in a state court's application or interpretation of state law. <u>See Estelle v. McGuire</u>, 502 U.S. 62, 67-68, 71-72 (1991) ("the fact that the instruction was allegedly incorrect under state law is not a basis for habeas relief"); Lewis v. Jeffers, 497 U.S. 764, 783 (1990); see also 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254(a), (b)(2). Here, the Court of Appeal applied California Supreme Court precedent and

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"conclude[d] that section 11379.6, subdivision (a) criminalizes participation in any stage of the methamphetamine manufacturing process" (Lodgment 5 at 8) and the Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeal's decision (Lodgment 7). While Petitioner may not agree with this conclusion, this Court does not have authority on habeas review to evaluate a state court's interpretation of state law. See Bradshaw v. Richey, 546 U.S. 74, \_\_\_, 126 S.Ct. 602, 604 (2005) ("We have repeatedly held that a state court's interpretation of state law, including one announced on direct appeal of the challenged conviction, binds a federal court sitting in habeas corpus"); Estelle, 502 U.S. at 67-68; Lewis, 497 U.S. at 783.

Petitioner contends, however, that she has raised a federal claim because the trial court's alleged failure to correctly instruct the jury relieved the prosecution of its burden to prove all of the elements of section 11379.6 and violated Petitioner's due process rights. Pet. at 5. Federal habeas relief is warranted where a petitioner establishes that the ailing instruction by itself "so infected the entire trial that the resulting conviction violates due process." Estelle, 502 U.S. at 71-72; see also Donnelly v. DeChristoforo, 416 U.S. 637, 643 (1974) (explaining that the challenged instruction cannot merely be "undesirable, erroneous, or even 'universally condemned'" - it must violate some constitutional The instruction may not be judged in artificial isolation, it must be considered in the context of both the instructions as a whole and the trial record. See Estelle, 502 U.S. at 72. When reviewing an allegedly ambiguous instruction, courts are required to inquire "whether there is a reasonable likelihood that the jury has applied the challenged instruction in a way" that

violates the Constitution. <u>Boyde v. California</u>, 494 U.S. 370, 380 (1990); Calderon v. Coleman, 525 U.S. 141, 146 (1998) (same).

Estelle presupposes that the jury instruction was somehow faulty under state law. See Estelle, 502 U.S. at 71-72. In this case, the only challenge Petitioner raises to the validity of the jury instruction is that construing § 11379.6(a) as encompassing the preliminary and intermediate steps in the manufacturing process reads § 11379.6(c), which prohibits offering to manufacture methamphetamine, out of the statute. Lodgment 6 at 14. More precisely, Petitioner submits that an offer to manufacture methamphetamine necessarily constitutes a preliminary step in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Id. at 15.

The Court finds no support for Petitioner's argument. As Petitioner concedes, no California legal precedent supports this interpretation. Moreover, Petitioner's reading of § 11379.6 does not yield a logical conclusion. As the Court of Appeal pointed out, a person can manufacture a controlled substance, or undertake any step of the manufacturing process, without first offering to do so. See Lodgment 5 at 7. Thus, Petitioner has failed to satisfy the threshold requirement of demonstrating that the jury instruction was incorrect. Estelle, 502 U.S. at 72.

Lodgment 2 at 11.

<sup>5</sup> Petitioner conceded in her opening brief before the Court of Appeal that:

<sup>...</sup> under People v. Lancelloti (sic), People v. Heath, People v. Stone, and People v. Jackson, her conviction for manufacturing a controlled substance in violation of section 11379.6, subdivision (a), can be affirmed. Each of those cases interpreted section 11379.6, subdivision (a), to encompass all initial and intermediate steps in the manufacturing process. People v. Lancellotti involved the discovery of equipment necessary to manufacture a controlled substance in a commercial storage unit, and is therefore most similar to the instant case.

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Apart from this challenge to the Court of Appeal's legal determination on a state law issue, Petitioner alleges no other factual or legal grounds to support her assertion that the methamphetamine manufacturing instruction violated her constitutional rights. See id. (quoting Donnelly, 416 U.S. at 643) (internal quotations omitted) ("[I]t must be established not merely that the instruction is undesirable, erroneous, or even universally condemned, but that it violated some [constitutional right]"). Nor does Petitioner argue what specific, adverse impact the jury instruction had on the trial or the jury's determination in light of

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Though Petitioner did not raise this argument before the state courts or in the instant petition, this Court notes that the CALJIC 12.09.1 instruction read to the jury by the trial judge instructed the jury that a person can be found guilty of manufacturing methamphetamine if the person "manufactures or offers to manufacture" methamphetamine. CALJIC 12.09.1; Lodgment 8 at 460 (emphasis added). In other words, the instruction, as given by the trial court, suggests that the jury could have found Petitioner guilty of manufacturing methamphetamine (§ 11379.6(a)) because they believed she offered to manufacture methamphetamine for someone (§ 11379.6(c)). This distinction is significant because § 11379.6(c) involves a lower sentencing range. When reviewing an allegedly ambiguous instruction, the court first must inquire "whether there is a reasonable likelihood that the jury has applied the challenged instruction in a way" that violates the Constitution. Boyde, 494 U.S. at 380; Coleman, 525 U.S. at 146. Here, the government did not allege in the amended information that Petitioner offered to manufacture methamphetamine. Lodgment 1 at 5-6. Nor did it pursue this theory in its opening or closing statements to the jury. Lodgment 8 at 87-96, 463-73. Moreover, the Court has reviewed the record as a whole and finds no evidence that Petitioner offered to manufacture See Estelle, 502 U.S. at 72. methamphetamine for anyone. While there is evidence that Petitioner offered to sell equipment to Bostic and that Terry H. asked Petitioner for money or methamphetamine, there is no evidence that Petitioner offered to manufacture methamphetamine for either individual. Lodgment 8 at 159-62. Accordingly, this Court finds that it is not reasonably likely that the jury applied CALJIC 12.09.1 in an unconstitutional way by convicting Petitioner of § 11379.6(a) (manufacturing) based on evidence that supported a conviction under § 11379.6(c) (offering to manufacture).

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the evidence presented. Having reviewed both the jury instructions provided and the record as a whole, this Court finds no evidence suggesting that the trial court's failure to provide sua sponte an instruction that excluded the preliminary steps of manufacturing methamphetamine affected the fundamental fairness of Petitioner's trial or deprived Petitioner of her right to due process of law. The Court also finds no basis in the record for concluding that there is a reasonable likelihood that the jury applied the challenged instruction in a way that violates the Constitution. Estelle, 502 U.S. at 72; Boyde, 494 U.S. at 380.

Accordingly, this Court finds that the trial court's instruction on § 11379.6 did not "so infect[] the entire trial that the resulting conviction violates due process." <u>Estelle</u>, 502 U.S. at 71-72. The Court, therefore, finds that the Court of Appeal's decision upholding Petitioner's conviction for manufacturing methamphetamine was not contrary to the clearly established federal law set forth in <u>Estelle</u>, <u>see Williams</u>, 529 U.S. at 405, and **RECOMMENDS** that Petitioner's Petition be **DENIED** on ground one.

# B. <u>Failure to Provide A Lesser-Included Offense Instruction</u>

Petitioner contends that the trial court violated her due process rights by not instructing the jury on the lesser-included manufacture methamphetamine offense of offering to §11379.6(c). Pet. at 5. Respondent argues that Petitioner is not entitled to federal habeas relief on this claim because the claim does not present a federal question. Resp't Mem. at 12. Alternatively, Respondent urges that the state court's decision was not objectively unreasonable and that Petitioner has failed to show that the claimed error had a substantial and injurious effect on the

jury's verdict. <u>Id.</u>

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Because the California Supreme Court summarily denied Petitioner's petition (Lodgment 7), the Court once again must "look through" to the California Court of Appeal's opinion (Lodgment 5).

See Ylst, 501 U.S. at 801-06. Applying California law, the Court of Appeal concluded:

Hickey has cited no authority to support her assertion that offering to manufacture methamphetamine is a lesser included offense of manufacturing methamphetamine, and we are aware of no such authority. As we stated in part III.A, ante, a person can manufacture a substance without first offering to do so. Therefore, the offense of manufacturing methamphetamine may be completed without committing the offense of offering to manufacture methamphetamine.

We conclude that offering to manufacture methamphetamine is not a lesser included offense of manufacturing methamphetamine, and thus, that the trial court did not err in failing to instruct the jury sua sponte on the offense of offering to manufacture methamphetamine.

Lodgment 5 at 10.

Respondent argues that this Court should defer to the state court's determination that offering to manufacture methamphetamine under § 11379.6(c) is not a lesser-included offense of manufacturing methamphetamine under § 11379.6(a). Resp't Mem. at 14. As previously noted, federal habeas corpus relief is not available to correct alleged errors in a state court's application or interpretation of state law. See Estelle, 502 U.S. at 67-68; Lewis, 497 U.S. at 783; see also 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254(a), (b)(2). However, because Petitioner has alleged a federal due process violation and because federal courts are obligated to construe pro se pleadings liberally, see Barron v. Ashcroft, 358 F.3d 674, 676 (9th Cir. 2004), this Court finds that Petitioner has alleged a federal

violation sufficient to enable review of her claim.

Petitioner challenges the Court of Appeal's decision to uphold her conviction despite the trial court's failure to instruct lesser-included offense of offering to manufacture methamphetamine. Pet. at 5. This Court may not grant habeas relief unless the state court's adjudication on the merits "resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(1). Here, as Respondent correctly points out, the United States Supreme Court has not "clearly established" that defendants in noncapital cases have a right to lesser-offense instructions. Resp't Mem. at 13. Although the Supreme Court in Beck v. Alabama, 447 U.S. 625, 637-38 (1980), held that the Due Process Clause entitles a defendant to an instruction on a lesser-included offense in a capital case, there is no "clearly established" Supreme Court law that requires that the court give a lesser-included offense instruction in a non-capital case. See Solis v. Garcia, 219 F.3d 922, 929 (9th Cir. 2000); see also Bashor v. Risley, 730 F.2d 1228, 1240 (9th Cir. 1984) (quoting <u>James v. Reese</u>, 546 F.2d 325, 327 (9th Cir. 1976)) ("the failure of a state court to instruct on a lesser offense [in a non-capital case] fails to present a federal constitutional question and will not be considered in a federal habeas corpus proceeding"). As such, this Court cannot say that the Court of Appeal's decision was contrary to clearly established Supreme Court law.

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Even if Petitioner had a constitutionally-recognized right to a lesser-included offense instruction, the Court of Appeal did not err in finding that offering to manufacture methamphetamine is not a lesser-included offense of manufacturing methamphetamine. "Under California law, a lesser offense is necessarily included in a greater offense if either the statutory elements of the greater offense, or the facts actually alleged in the accusatory pleading, include all the elements of the lesser offense, such that the greater cannot be committed without also committing the lesser." People v. Birks, 19 Cal. 4th 108, 117 (1998). As discussed in the defendant can commit the of previous section, a offense manufacturing methamphetamine without ever having offered to manufacture methamphetamine. As such, contrary to Petitioner's assertion, offering to manufacture methamphetamine is not a lesserincluded offense of the conviction offense.

For the foregoing reasons, this Court **RECOMMENDS** that Petitioner's Petition be **DENIED** on ground two.

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In sum, this Court finds that Petitioner has failed to present any evidence suggesting that the California Court of Appeal's decision as to her claims was contrary to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established federal law. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d). Nor has Petitioner made any argument that further factual development is necessary, such that an evidentiary hearing would be warranted. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2) (exceptions where an evidentiary hearing may be appropriate). As such, this Court RECOMMENDS that Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus be DENIED and the case dismissed with prejudice.

For all the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that 1 2 the District Court issue an Order: (1) approving and adopting this Report and Recommendation, and (2) directing that Judgment be 3 4 entered denying the Petition. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any written objections to this 5 Report must be filed with the Court and served on all parties no 6 7 later than July 13, 2007. The document should be captioned "Objections to Report and Recommendation." 8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any reply to the objections shall 9 be filed with the Court and served on all parties no later than 10 11 August 3, 2007. The parties are advised that failure to file 12 objections within the specified time may waive the right to raise those objections on appeal of the Court's order. See Turner v. 13 14 <u>Duncan</u>, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998). 15 IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: June 21, 2007 16 17 BARBARA L. MAJOR 18 United States Magistrate Judge 19 20 21 22 COPY TO: 23 HONORABLE ROGER T. BENITEZ 24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 25 ALL COUNSEL AND PARTIES 26 27